**First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Weekly Update for the State and Territory Single Points of Contact - June 29, 2015**

**FirstNet News**

- The FirstNet RFP team continues to review and respond to the more than 670 questions received on the Special Notice and draft RFP documents. The team posted 234 responses on Friday, June 26, which brings the total number of answers posted to 516. Additional information, including the links to the Q&A, is available on the FirstNet blog http://firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog/firstnet-moving-quickly-answer-650-questions-special-notice-draft-rfp-documents.

- Last week FirstNet met with several federal partners on various grant planning and policy issues, including the DHS Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), US Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the interagency *Emergency Communications Preparedness Center (ECPC),* which includes Federal Departments and Agencies with emergency communications programs. FirstNet also participated in the Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association Conference in Milwaukie, and in two separate meetings in Utah with their governing board in Salt Lake City, and a workshop for local stakeholders in Richland.

- This week FirstNet will be participating in the National Sheriff's Association Conference in Baltimore June 27-30, the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) Annual Conference in Denver June 30 - July 1, and a webinar for the Association for College & University Technology Advancement on June 30.

- Two federal consultations are scheduled for this week with DHS/FEMA (July 1) and DOD (July 2).

- Thirty-seven state consultation meetings have been held to date (no meetings were held this past week). There are 14 initial state consultation meetings scheduled for later this summer. We have received a total of 53 completed state and territory initial consultation checklists. Confirmed upcoming initial consultation meetings are: North Dakota (7/9), Illinois (7/14), Alabama (7/15), Georgia (7/21), Tennessee (7/23), California (7/28-29), Pennsylvania (8/4), Hawaii (8/11-12), American Samoa ( 8/13-14), Indiana (8/26), Michigan (9/1), New Jersey (9/3), Alaska (9/9), Arizona (9/15), CNMI (10/20), and Guam (10/22). An updated schedule can be viewed on the website tracker.

- The July 9 FirstNet Quarterly SPOC webinar is scheduled for 2:00-3:30 pm eastern. The agenda will include an update on our acquisition process, the recent public notices, and some key information related to our data collection efforts.

**News from the States, Territories, and Associations**

- On Thursday, June 25th, we hosted an optional webinar featuring the state of Texas eLearning platform and two on line courses:  Introduction to Public Safety Broadband and the Tutorial for the Mobile Data Survey Tool.  The comments and questions for the Texas team generated a good discussion around motivating individuals to learn about the nationwide public safety broadband network (including continuing education credits for responders), and making it easy to provide information for the current FirstNet data collection effort.  Our thanks again to Todd Early, the Texas SPOC, Lesia Dickson, Texas Outreach and Education Coordinator, and the entire Texas team for their offer to share this information.  Texas also acknowledged the partnerships from Texas A&M Engineering Extension, the Department of Homeland Security/Office of Emergency Communications, and finally, NTIA and the State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) for funding the project.

- FirstNet is looking for other examples of data collection strategies to share.  Please contact datacollection@firstnet.gov with suggestions or offers for similar future forums.

**Media Watch**

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*Traditional Media*

**The Colorado Statesman: Hudson: Local Governments Grapple With Boosting Broadband**

http://www.coloradostatesman.com/content/995819-hudson-local-governments-grapple-boosting-broadband

At the same time Colorado communities are scrambling to connect to the fiber optic backbones that parallel many of the state's major highways, the Department of Local Affairs and the Colorado Department of Safety are exploring the FirstNet Public Safety Broadband Network that the U. S. Department of Commerce is attempting to deploy nationally. Assigned its own reserved band of cellular spectrum, FirstNet can guarantee public safety responders access to a reliable channel for high-speed data.

**Missouri Farmer Today: Organizations Expand Broadband**

http://www.missourifarmertoday.com/news/organizations-expand-broadband/article_393f6736-1471-11e5-854b-f37034788a15.html

Development of a public safety broadband service known as FirstNet could lend momentum to the rural sector, Bliss said.

**Emergency Management: Without Trust, FirstNet Won't Be Successful**

http://www.emergencymgmt.com/emergency-blogs/disaster-zone/FirstNetmustestablishtrust.html

Trust is the most fundamental element of any relationship, be it in business, government or your personal life. Without trust there will be no connection and certainly no success.

*Web and Social Media*
The FirstNet social media communications channels continue to grow steadily.  The FirstNet Twitter account now has 2,360 followers; LinkedIn 794 users; Google+ 48 users; and YouTube 128 subscribers.  FirstNet released a new video featuring several SPOCs discussing planning for consultation meetings.  The video has received positive reviews from stakeholders and can be viewed at: http://firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog/firstnet-state-spocs-discuss-best-practices-planning-initial-consultation-meeting.  Two blog entries were published that addressed FirstNet and gained attention over social media:

**Geek Wire: Q&A: Former Seattle CTO Bill Schrier on the Outlook for Municipal Broadband**

http://www.geekwire.com/2015/qa-former-seattle-cto-bill-schrier-on-the-outlook-for-municipal-broadband/

Our guest on the latest GeekWire radio show was Bill Schrier, the former CTO for the City of Seattle and current state point of contact for FirstNet, a $7 billion program passed by Congress to build a nationwide wireless network for first responders.

**CATO Institute Blog: President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing**

http://www.cato.org/blog/president-obamas-task-force-21st-century-policing

President Obama's Task Force is now recommending a host of actions to expand the role of the federal government even further…The Federal Government should make the development and building of segregated radio and increased bandwidth by FirstNet for exclusive use by local, state, tribal, and federal public safety agencies a top priority.